



News Release

Arizona Department of Public Safety

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Arizona Department of Public Safety Issues Advisory for Northern Arizona Highway Conditions

DPS urges motorists not to travel into the hardest hit areas by the snow storm

The Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) strongly urges motorists not to travel in the areas affected by the poor visibility which are literally “white-out” conditions with extremely slippery road surfaces due to the heavy snowfall. DPS has committed full resources in personnel and equipment to insure timely responses to motorist assists and collisions. Unfortunately, the huge volume of travel incidents across five counties have over-tasked the resources of DPS. Commander Dean Nyhart, DPS Northern Bureau Highway Division stated, “this is the worst snow storm that DPS has ever had to deal with in Northern Arizona.”

DPS Officers have been investigating hundreds of weather related collisions along with providing assistance to numerous motorists that have either slid off of the roadway or become disabled in the snow. Other parts of the state are experiencing rain which also creates very slippery roadway surfaces and flooding.

The best format to address the weather-related problems will be to drastically decrease the number of motorists traveling on the public highways in the areas where the poor visibility and slippery roadways are very hazardous for vehicle travel.

At this time several areas of Northern Arizona are experiencing extremely heavy snowfall with limited visibility. The roadway surfaces are slippery and may be impassable due to the rapid snow accumulation on the roadways along with the formation of ice. The hardest hit areas are in Coconino, Gila, Mohave, Navajo and Yavapai Counties.

In addition, many state highways now require snow chains or four wheel drive and there will be temporary closures of various highways due to the extreme weather conditions.

DPS recommends delaying vehicle travel to areas in Northern Arizona affected by the snowfall during the next 48 hours. DPS urges all motorists currently traveling in those areas to slow down, be very attentive to changing weather, and be alert to quickly changing road and traffic conditions and to drive with extreme caution.

For all current road and weather condition questions, please visit the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) Web site at “www.az511.com” or “[Dial 5-1-1](tel:511).” Local DPS offices and Dispatch centers are not equipped to handle travel information phone inquiries.

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The mission of the Arizona Department of Public Safety, the most dynamic state-level law enforcement agency in United States, is to protect human life and property by enforcing state laws, deterring criminal activity, assuring the safety of the motoring public on Arizona's highways and providing vital scientific, technical and operational support to other criminal justice agencies. The Department, also one of Arizona's largest law enforcement agencies with some 2,200 sworn and civilian employees, consists of four divisions – Highway Patrol, Criminal Investigations, Criminal Justice Support and Agency Support. The Department is headquartered in Phoenix with offices located in more than 30 communities within Arizona's 15 counties.

